

2.2.7 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Objectives

- To employ special management actions to retain the important values associated with specially designated areas such as ACECs (Areas of Critical Environmental Concern) containing important natural or cultural resources, systems or processes.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-1: Private lands adjacent to an existing ACEC that contain resources relevant and important to the resources for which that ACEC was established, if acquired by BLM will be incorporated into the ACEC.

ACEC-2: If the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Wilderness Study Area is released for purposes other than wilderness designation, the entire Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Area will be designated as an ACEC with the primary objective of protecting habitat for the trout.

Note: A description of the lands and acres included in the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Area is found in Chapter 1, Section 1.1 and Table 1.1.

High Rock Canyon ACEC

High Rock Canyon contains exceptional scenic values, important wildlife habitat including bighorn sheep habitat and high-density raptor nesting, National Register quality archaeological sites and districts, and 18 miles of the Applegate Trail (a National Historic Trail) with extant emigrant graffiti.

ACEC-3: Approximately 5,664 acres in High Rock Canyon are designated as an ACEC, encompassing the High Rock Canyon Road corridor, Stevens Camp, and the Pole Corral areas (See Map 2-4).

Special management actions:

- Vehicle camping will be allowed only in designated camping areas within the area shown on Map 2-14b.
- Rock climbing will not be allowed to protect the sensitive raptor nesting and cultural resources in High Rock Canyon.
- The portion of the High Rock Canyon trail between the mouth of High Rock Canyon and about 5 miles below Stevens Camp as shown on Maps 2-2b will be seasonally closed each year to vehicle use. The closure period will be from the end of Chukar hunting season (about the 1st of February) until the second weekend in May each year.

Note: The intent of the closure is to prevent damage to the emigrant trail and reduce human disturbance of wildlife, including disturbance to lambing bighorn sheep and nesting raptors.



*Autumn
colors in
the
Lahontan
Cutthroat
Trout
WSA*

Soldier Meadow ACEC

The complex of hot springs at Soldier Meadows contains endemic fish, plant, and invertebrate species. The area also is near the Applegate Trail and contains archaeological sites and districts considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The popularity of the hot springs for recreation use causes impacts to the important natural and cultural resources.

ACEC-4: Approximately 2,077 acres of public lands in the Soldier Meadow area are designated as an ACEC including desert dace habitat, basalt cinquefoil populations and habitat for four endemic springsnails (Map 2-4).

ACEC-5: The following special management actions will be taken in the Soldier Meadow ACEC:

Camping will be allowed only in designated camping sites (Map 2-4)

The existing hot spring access road will be closed

Other roads that directly impact resource values will be rerouted to avoid sensitive resources (Map 2-2f and 2-4)

Grazing by livestock will be permitted within fenced portions of the ACEC when consistent with the recovery plan for the rare species within the ACEC

Wild horse use will not be allowed in the fenced portion of the ACEC.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

WSR-1: No stream segments are recommended for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Note: Sixteen eligible stream segments considered eligible for Wild and Scenic River designated were evaluated during the planning process. It was determined that designating the 16 eligible streams as Wild and Scenic Rivers would not provide additional protection for their outstandingly remarkable values.